

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 03357 221926Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119489 221935Z /53

P 221730Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WSHDC PRIORITY 786
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T ROME 3357

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: STATE 42000

1. WE BRIEFED MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE ON
SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. HIS REACTION TO PROPOSAL WAS POSITIVE,
AND HE AGREED WITH POINTS MADE IN PARA 3 OF REFTEL AS TO
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PAGE 02 ROME 03357 221926Z

WHY SECURITY COUNCIL SOULD BE INVOLVED. RACHELE STATED
THREE CONDITIONS THAT ITAIANS BELIEVE SHOULD BE MET
BEFORE SC MEETING HAS PROSPECT FOR SUCCESS: 1) AGREE-
MENT AMONG AFRICANS THAT NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT
HAS, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, REACHED DEAD END:
2) SOVIET WILLINGNESS NOT TO OBSTRUCT SC
ACTION: AND 3) SOMALIS AND EHTIOPIANS SUPPORT OF

REFERRAL TO SC.

2. AS TO FIRST POINT, ITALIAN EMBASSY IN LAGOS REPORTED OVER WEEKEND THAT GARBA HAS NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE FOR HIS MEDIATION EFFORT. HE FEELS THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN BRINGING TWO SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER, AND HE HOLDS OUT SOME HOPE FOR MORE MOVEMENT AT TRIPOLI.

3. ON THIRD POINT, ITALIANS DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER ETHIOPIANS OR SOMALIS ARE READY FOR SC. ETHIOPIANS STILL PREFER AFRICAN CONTEXT FOR EFFORTS TO REACH SOLUTION AND ARE SUSPICIOUS OF ACTION IN SC WHERE THEY FEEL WESTERN POWERS WILL GANG UP ON THEM AND PUSH THROUGH RESOLUTION UNFAVORABLE TO THEM. SOMALIS, ONCE IN FAVOR OF SC ACTION, HAVE COOLED ON IDEA ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR FRIENDS (INCLUDING ITALIANS) HAVE POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT WHILE PROPAGANDA POINTS AGAINST SOVIETS MAY BE MADE IN COURSE OF DEBATE, ANY SC RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE END WILL BE CALL FOR RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE.

4. DESPITE THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF SC SUCCEEDING WHERE OAU HAS THUS FAR FAILED, RACHELE EMPHASIZED THAT ITALIAN FUNDAMENTALLY FAVOR SC ACTION, AS LONG AS IT TAKES PLACE IN CONDITIONS
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PAGE 03 ROME 03357 221926Z

MOST LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT SUCCESS.
ITALIANS WILL THEREFORE SUPPORT SC
ACTION IF AFRICANS FAVOR IT. GARDNER

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NNN

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